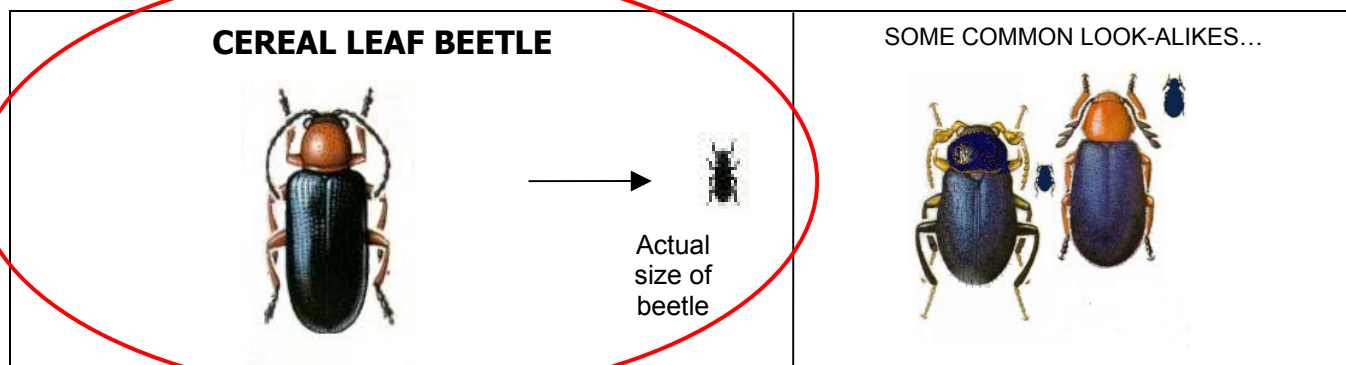


Cereal Leaf Beetle

Originally from Europe, the cereal leaf beetle (CLB) was first detected in Washington state in 1999. The insect causes significant damage by feeding on the leaves of small grains and grasses, including barley, oats, wheat, bluegrass, timothy, rye, orchardgrass, corn, millet, redtop, and rice. Typically, both adults and larvae feed length-wise, between the veins on leaves, and can cause the plant to have a tattered and/or whitened appearance (see photos below).



CLB larvae and feeding damage



CLB larvae and biocontrol agent

As of July 2003, CLB has been found in 16 Washington counties: Adams, Asotin, Clark, Columbia, Garfield, Grant, Ferry, Franklin, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman. Due to the insect's presence in the state, quarantine regulations in California and Canada restrict the movement of certain Washington commodities (i.e. small grains, hay and straw, ear corn, forage seed, christmas trees, harvesting equipment, etc.). Commodities originating from CLB-infested counties require fumigation and a phytosanitary certificate. Commodities originating from a "CLB-free" county also require certification of origin. Before shipping to California or Canada, consult the related quarantines for a complete and current description of requirements and exemptions.

WSDA continues to conduct surveys to monitor the spread of the beetle in the state. An early detection of CLB populations can initiate a biocontrol program to reduce CLB populations before major economic loss occurs in small grain crops. If you would like more information, or if you think you have found this beetle, please contact:

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